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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,806	04/18/2005	Naohei Noguchi	Shig CP33JL02TR	3669

27667 7590 10/26/2006

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EXAMINER

ARANI, TAGHI T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

DATE MAILED: 10/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/531,806

Applicant(s)

NOGUCHI, NAOHEI

Examiner

Taghi T. Arani

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04/18/2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/18/2005.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Taghi T. Arani
Primary Examiner
Au 2131
10/24/06

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7 have been examined and are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 08-336067(IDS filed 04/18/2005 (translation provided in PTO-892)).

As per claim 1, JP 08-336067 teaches a monitoring system of a specific area, comprising
(Abstract):

monitor terminals (paragraph 0021, discloses plurality of robot camera R_n), which have a monitoring device having at least an image pickup unit (Fig. 1, television camera3), a communication device for transmitting monitor information of the monitoring device to an external monitor (paragraph 0021, where the video signal picked up by the camera 3 is transmitted to each client through CC section 4, and it is projected on the television set 5), and a moving device for moving within the area to be monitored (paragraph 0021, robot camera R_n, see also Fig. 1, robot camera R1 and R2), which is made up of a moving cart moving in the moving path that is installed in said area to be monitored (fig. 1, element 1, see also claim 1, where two or more robots run in accordance with a common orbit (or rail), see also paragraph 0006); and

a monitor, which is data-communicably connected to said monitor terminals and has a display device that receives the monitor information transmitted from the monitor terminal and is capable of displaying at least a monitor image by said image pickup unit (paragraph 002, where

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the picked up video signal is transmitted to each client through CC section 4, and it projects on the television set 5 installed on the client side) , and an operating device for operating the movement of said monitor terminals, in which the monitoring system performs remote monitoring of the area to be monitored where said monitor terminals are installed (paragraph 0025, where from the controller 6 of a client side, the command information for carrying out servo control of mechanical components of the robot Rn occurs), by said monitor, wherein

said monitoring system includes a monitor image switching device that switches monitor images from a plurality of said monitor terminals and transmits the images to the monitor, in which said monitor terminals have a proximity detecting device for detecting another monitor terminal existing in close proximity on a same moving path or an adjacent moving path by moving, the monitor terminal transmits the detection information of another monitor terminal to said monitor image switching device when the proximity detecting device detects another monitor terminal (paragraph 0027, when two sets of robot cameras R1 and R2 exchange information through information they have memorized and a breaking control prevents colliding of the two robots) , and

said monitor image switching device switches an image to be transmitted to said monitor to the monitor image of another monitor terminal existing in close proximity based on the received detection information of the monitor terminal (paragraphs 0029-30 and 0034).

As per claim 2, JP 08-336067 teaches the monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein said monitor image switching device switches and transmits the image of said monitor terminal, which came close to the another monitor terminal by moving, to the monitor to which

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said another monitor terminal has transmitted the monitor image (paragraphs 31 and 0034, see also claim 2).

As per claims 3 and 5, JP 08-336067 teaches the monitoring system of a specific area according to claim 1, wherein said monitor terminal is made up of a moving unit that is provided with said image pickup unit and moves within said area to be monitored (Fig. 1, robots R1 and R2 with cameras 3), and a fixed unit that is capable of non-contact communication with the moving units and provided with said communication means (paragraph 0024).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 4,6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 08-336067 as applied to claim1-3 above, and further in view of JP-63-233688 (IDS filed 04/18/2005).

JP 08-336067 does not explicitly disclose wherein said moving path has a feeding section for supplying electric power to said moving carts or said moving units.

However, the examiner asserts that supplying electric power to the moving cart or moving units is a common knowledge in the art. For example, JP-63-233688 discloses (see Abstract) supplying electric power to the moving cart or moving units. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the

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electric power supply disclosed by JP-63-233688 in the multi-robot system of JP 08-336067, because without such electric power supply, the system of JP 08-336067 would be inoperative.

Conclusion

4. Prior arts made of record, not relied upon:

US 2,725,423 to Graham.

US 5,448,290 to Van Zeeland.

US 5, 559,695 to Daily.

US 6,545,705 to Sigel et al.

US 6,662,099 to Knaian et al.

US 2003/0052971 to Gutta et al.

US 2003/0076417 to Thomas et al.

US 2003/0095183 to Roberts et al..

US 2003/0107649 to Flickner et al.

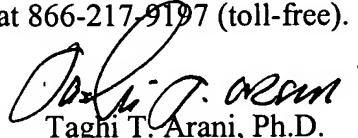
US 2006/0210112 to Cohen et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taghi T. Arani whose telephone number is (571) 272-3787. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30 Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned, is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Taghi T. Arani, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2131
10/24/2006